

**CITY OF MORGANTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
2015**

**Proudly Protecting Lives and Property
for the Citizens of Morganton**



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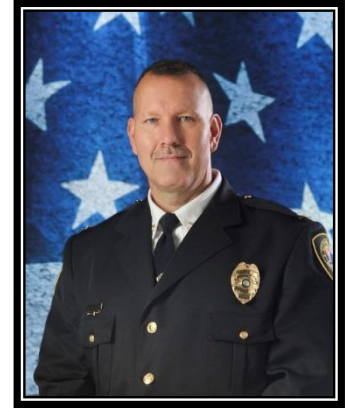
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Morganton Department of Public Safety I am honored to present our 2015 Annual Report. We are pleased to provide our partners and community members with the opportunity to learn about our agency's work and revisit some important activities from the past year.



The Morganton Department of Public Safety is committed to the foundational principal of building trust and nurturing legitimacy by working to build good relationships by treating people with dignity and respect. We understand that policing in America is evolving rapidly. Citizens desire compassionate policing, equal treatment, improved transparency, better trained officers, and a diverse workforce that mirrors the community. Further, citizens desire a law enforcement workforce with a guardian mindset and a strong emphasis on community policing.

Our values of Integrity, Professionalism, Honor, Accountability, Respect and Equality guide our decision making as we work to enhance safety and quality of life in the City of Morganton. We are committed to active community involvement, quality training and collaborative partnerships in an effort to provide a safe and stable environment for all of those who live, work, play and visit our community. I am proud to say that in 2015 the City of Morganton was recognized as one of the 50 safest cities in North Carolina and one of the 20 safest cities for drivers in America.

Community Partnerships are the foundation that leads to the prevention and reduction of crime within our neighborhoods. Addressing crime and enablers of crime, while balancing individual rights and maintaining trust within our community, is an ongoing challenge for all law enforcement. It is important that our Departmental leaders and community leaders pursue avenues that allow two-way communication, transparency, collaboration and relationship building.

I am proud of the members of the Morganton Department of Public Safety. They remain vigilant and engaged in our constant endeavor to improve the quality of life for our citizens. In the coming year we will continue to explore and consider advancements in policing and firefighting strategies. We are proud to serve the citizens of our community and are committed to bringing you the highest standard of law enforcement, fire services and customer service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ronnie D. Rector".

Ronnie D. Rector
Director of Public Safety

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Mission Statement

Our Mission:

We, the members of the Morganton Department of Public Safety, are committed to protect the lives, property, and Constitutional Rights of all residents and visitors of OUR community by providing professional law enforcement and fire protection services.

Our Values:

- ♥ **Integrity:** High ethical standards, honesty and fairness
- ♥ **Professionalism:** Individual excellence, education and training
- ♥ **Honor:** Official dignity, repute, and esteem
- ♥ **Accountability:** To take responsibility for all actions and decisions
- ♥ **Respect:** Treating others as you would like to be treated
- ♥ **Equality:** Fair, impartial, and equitable treatment of all people

Our Vision:

The *Morganton Department of Public Safety* strives to be a leader in the delivery of public safety services which combines law enforcement and fire protection. Our employees strive to be leaders in OUR community in name and deed conducting themselves in a manner to which others will aspire.

Retirements

The Morganton Department of Public Safety proudly recognizes the retirement of the following employees in 2015. Upon their retirement the City of Morganton and the Department of Public Safety offer our sincere appreciation for dedicated and exemplary service:



Major Mark Bradshaw

Effective June 1, 2015

25 years of service



Sergeant Bill Perry

Effective July 1, 2015

18 years of service



Inv. Calvin Daniels

Effective January 1, 2015

22 years of service



PSO Terry Mangum

Effective October 1, 2015

28 years of service



Res. FF Mike Pearson

Effective July 1, 2015

21 years of service

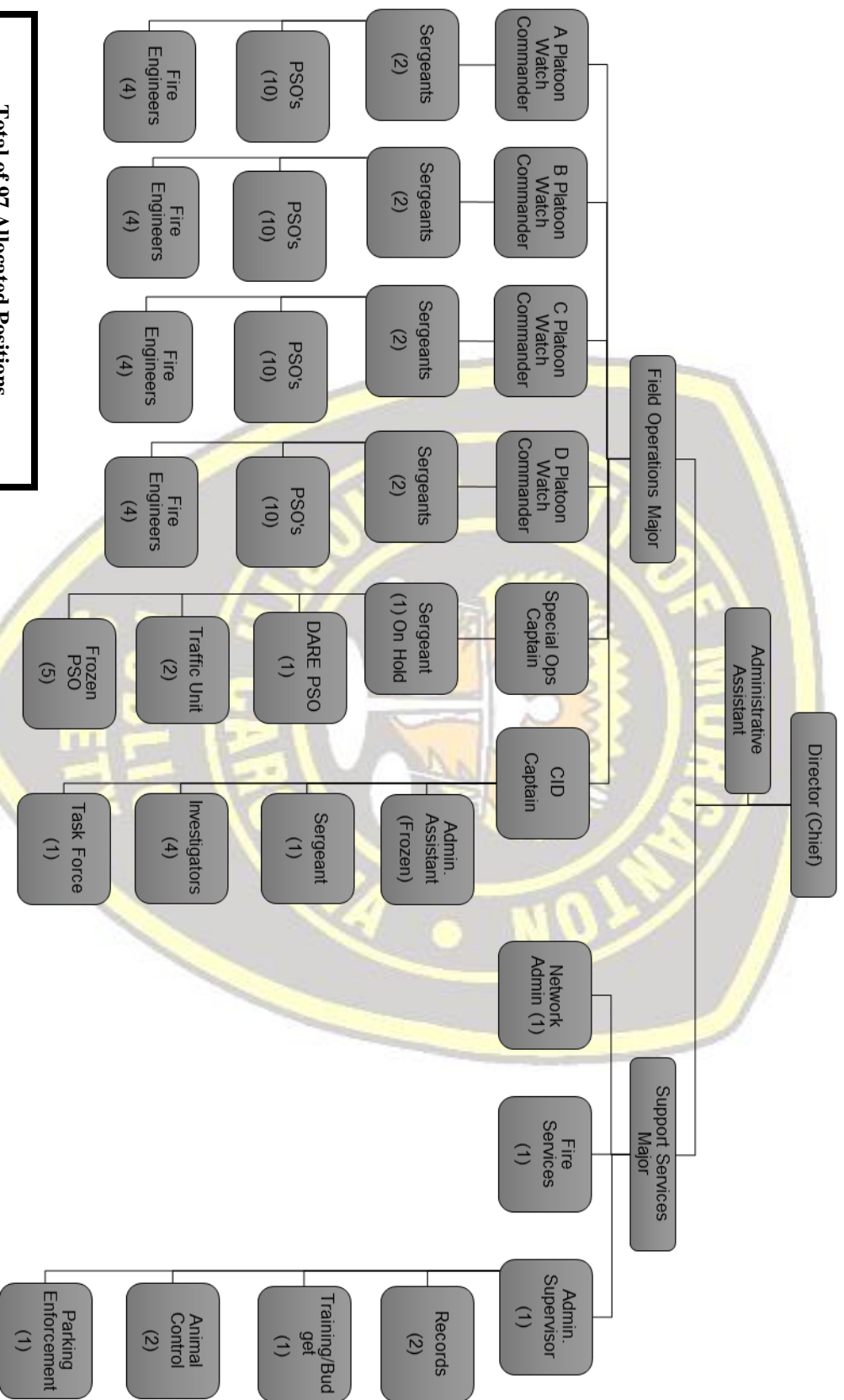
Department Personnel Allocations

January 2016

<u>Department Position</u>	<u>Allocate</u>	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Frozen</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Public Safety Chief	*1	*1		
Major	*2	*2		
Captain	*6	*5		*1
Sergeant	*10	*9		*1
PSO	*51	*40	*5	*6
Engineers	16	15		1
Fire Captain	1	1		
Admin Supervisor	1	1		
Admin Manager	1	1		
Admin Specialist	2	1	1	
Network Admin	1	1		
Customer Serv Rep	2	1		1
Parking Enforcement	1	1		
Animal Control	2	2		
<hr/>				
Total Sworn*	*70	*57	*5	*8
Total Civilian	27	24	1	2
GRAND TOTAL	97	81	6	10

* Indicates sworn personnel

Morganton Department of Public Safety



Total of 97 Allocated Positions

1 – Frozen Admin Specialist, 2011
 5 – Frozen: 3 in 2001; 1 in 2010; 1 in 2011

Highlights & Accomplishments

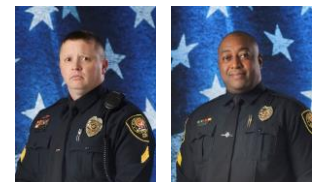
❖ The following promotions took place in 2015:

- ❖ **Captain Ryan Lander** promoted to Major/Field Operations
- ❖ **Sergeant Keith Bowman** to Captain
- ❖ **PSO Josiah Brown** promoted to Sergeant
- ❖ **PSO Roger Tate** promoted to Sergeant
- ❖ **PSO Nick Edwards** promoted to Sergeant

❖ The following personnel were recognized for their accomplishments during 2015:

- ❖ **Sergeant Josiah Brown**, Life Saving Citation
- ❖ **Inv. Joseph Beaver**, Letter of Commendation
- ❖ **PSO Jeff Gillstrap**, Traffic Crash Reconstruction certification
- ❖ **PSO Kirstie Puckett**, Life Saving Citation
- ❖ **PSO Justin Gragg**, Life Saving Citation
- ❖ **Fire Engineer Brain Estes**, Life Safety Educator, Levels 1, 2, and 3
- ❖ **Fire Engineer Clay Rudicill**, Life Safety Educator, Levels 1, 2, and 3

Sergeants Will Lackey and Tico Moss both completed the *FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Leadership Institute* program which is an intensive three-tiered program each consisting of 4.5 days specifically and uniquely designed to prepare law enforcement leaders for command/executive level positions.



Lackey

Moss



Captain Keith Bowman successfully completed the *Administrative Officers Management Program* (AOMP) at N.C. State University. AOMP is a twelve week on-site Management and Leadership Education program designed specifically for Law Enforcement Professionals. This unique educational experience, operated as part of a nationally accredited Public Administration Program, offers participants the opportunity to earn fifteen college credits in a rigorous program, at a cost that makes it one of the most affordable programs of its kind in the country. AOMP is a continuing education activity of the Public Safety Leadership Initiative (PSLI) in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) at North Carolina State University.

❖ Boards & Committees;

- 👮 **Chief Ronnie Rector** – Burke County Homeland Security Taskforce, Burke County Domestic Violence Task Force, Burke Substance Abuse Network, Burke County Communication Technical Advisory Board, Burke County Narcotics Task Force Board of Directors, Downtown Parking Committee, HMF Inc. Board of Directors ex-officio member, member of Advisory Board for Public Safety Leadership Initiative for N.C. State University
- 👮 **Major Billy Bradshaw** – N.C. Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission Speed Measuring Instrument Committee as well as the N.C. Governors Highway Safety Coordinator for Burke County
- 👮 **Major Mark Bradshaw** – New Dimensions Charter School Boardmember
- 👮 **Captain Joe Blumetti** – Burke County Crimestoppers, Big Brothers & Big Sisters
- 👮 **Sergeant (Inv.) Keith Bowman** – Burke Substance Abuse Network and N.C. Coalition Initiative
- 👮 **Sergeant Tico Moss** – Morganton Human Relations Commission
- 👮 **Renee Carswell** – Burke County Crimestoppers, Treasurer, CTAB Secretary

❖ In 2015 Public Safety received and implemented the following grants:

- 👮 Governors Highway Safety Program Traffic Unit Grant
 - Year 3 of grant providing costs for personnel - value \$119,775
- 👮 Governors Crime Commission grants
 - Statewide Infrastructure & Technology Initiative - value \$18,750
 - Law Enforcement Block Grant: purchased *Internal Affairs* software - \$13,440

- ❖ Fire Prevention efforts include presentations to more than 1,700 citizens at 24 different events throughout the year. Events were held at local elementary schools, recreation center and public events and included information on fire prevention and life safety.



Public Safety firefighters presenting Fire Safety to area children

- ❖ Public Safety conducted a total of **34** traffic checkpoints during 2015 (6 included the state *Blood Alcohol Testing* mobile) at various locations throughout the city resulting in 666 charges as well as resulting in 96.6% seatbelt compliance.

Part 1 Crimes

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) guidelines track eight “Index Crimes,” known also as Part 1 crimes. The UCR system includes crimes that are most likely to be reported to the police and to occur with sufficient frequency to provide an adequate basis for comparison. Part 1 crimes are further split into two categories, **Violent** and **Property**. Below is analysis of Part 1 crimes reported to Public Safety (*The below percentage change is a comparison of 2014 to 2015*):

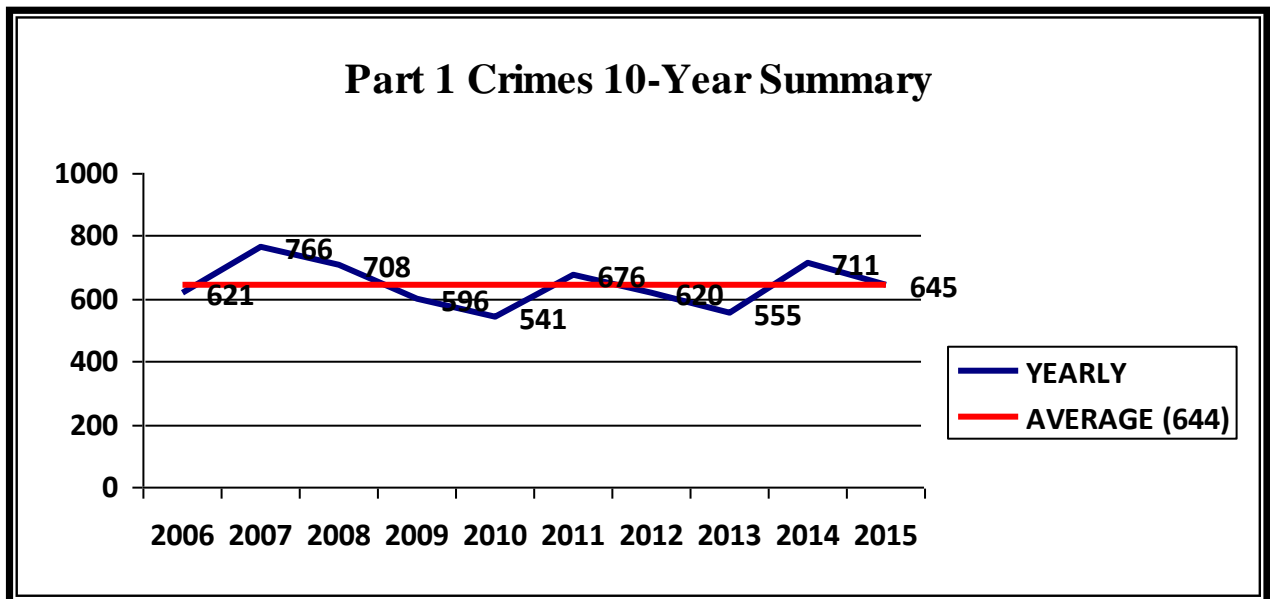
Violent Crimes	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change
Murder	1	0	3	1	-66%
Forcible Rape	3	8	6	4	-33%
Robbery	17	21	11	16	31%
Aggravated Assault	32	23	47	56	16%
TOTAL	53	52	67	77	13%

Property Crimes	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change
Burglary	172	133	149	132	-14%
Larceny	374	351	466	413	-11%
MV Theft	19	18	18	20	10%
Arson	2	1	11	3	-73%
TOTAL	567	503	644	568	-12%

2015 Part 1 Summary													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
<i>Murder</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Rape</i>	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
<i>Robbery</i>	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	4	1	2	1	3	16
<i>Assaults</i>	6	2	1	5	2	7	6	4	11	1	8	3	56
<i>Burglary</i>	7	9	12	11	10	10	14	11	18	16	10	4	132
<i>Larceny</i>	27	25	31	55	40	30	31	47	32	33	33	29	413
<i>MV Theft</i>	1	0	2	0	2	3	0	0	4	4	2	2	20
<i>Arson</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	42	37	47	72	57	52	52	66	68	56	55	41	645

Part 1 Crimes Continued

10-YEAR SUMMARY										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<i>Murder</i>	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
<i>Rape</i>	6	3	2	3	4	5	3	8	6	4
<i>Robbery</i>	15	18	12	12	12	6	17	21	11	16
<i>Assaults</i>	46	51	43	31	25	31	32	23	47	56
<i>Burglary</i>	132	179	208	139	127	144	172	133	149	132
<i>Larceny</i>	400	477	420	390	357	461	374	351	466	413
<i>MV Theft</i>	17	33	23	19	13	29	19	18	18	20
<i>Arson</i>	4	3	0	2	3	0	2	1	11	3
TOTAL	621	766	708	596	541	676	620	555	711	645



Part 1 Crimes Continued

2015 PART 1 CRIME ARRESTS													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
<i>Murder</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Rape</i>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Robbery</i>	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	5	2	4	3	4	25
<i>Assaults</i>	5	4	2	3	2	3	6	3	15	12	7	2	64
<i>Burglary</i>	4	2	2	3	3	3	4	8	3	5	2	8	47
<i>Larceny</i>	43	27	31	24	45	36	54	43	55	45	64	61	528
<i>MV Theft</i>	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	9
<i>Arson</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	53	36	35	32	54	44	69	60	78	66	77	75	679

Part 1 Crimes Arrests	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change
Murder	1	0	3	1	-67%
Forcible Rape	0	2	2	2	0%
Robbery	14	10	5	25	80%
Aggravated Assault	36	33	30	64	53%
Burglary	33	45	34	47	28%
Larceny	246	259	318	528	40%
MV Theft	3	4	1	9	89%
Arson	0	2	3	3	0%
TOTAL	333	358	396	679	42%

The above percentage change is a comparison of 2014 to 2015

Calls For Service

2015 Top-10 Calls For Service

Calls For Service (125 categories)	2012	2013	2014	2015
Vehicle Stop	8,743	6,579	7,905	6,805
Extra Patrol	274	486	888	3,187
Security Check	169	822	996	3,157
911 Hang-up	911	797	2,218	3,093
Alarm Activation	1,279	1,424	1,568	1,469
Suspicious Person	982	967	1,124	1,360
Warrant Service	923	1,024	980	1,216
Follow-Up	*	*	*	1,212
Property Damage MVA	1,001	1,098	1,079	1,135
Speak to Officer	783	713	1,054	1,129
All other calls for service	8,980	9,580	12,434	16,663
TOTAL	24,895	24,486	31,452	40,426

* indicates a new category implemented in 2015

- 🛡 The total *Calls For Service* have increased **38%** from four years ago
- 🛡 Public Safety responded to an average of *111 Calls For Service* each day (86 per day in 2014) utilizing 12-15 personnel per 12-hour shift

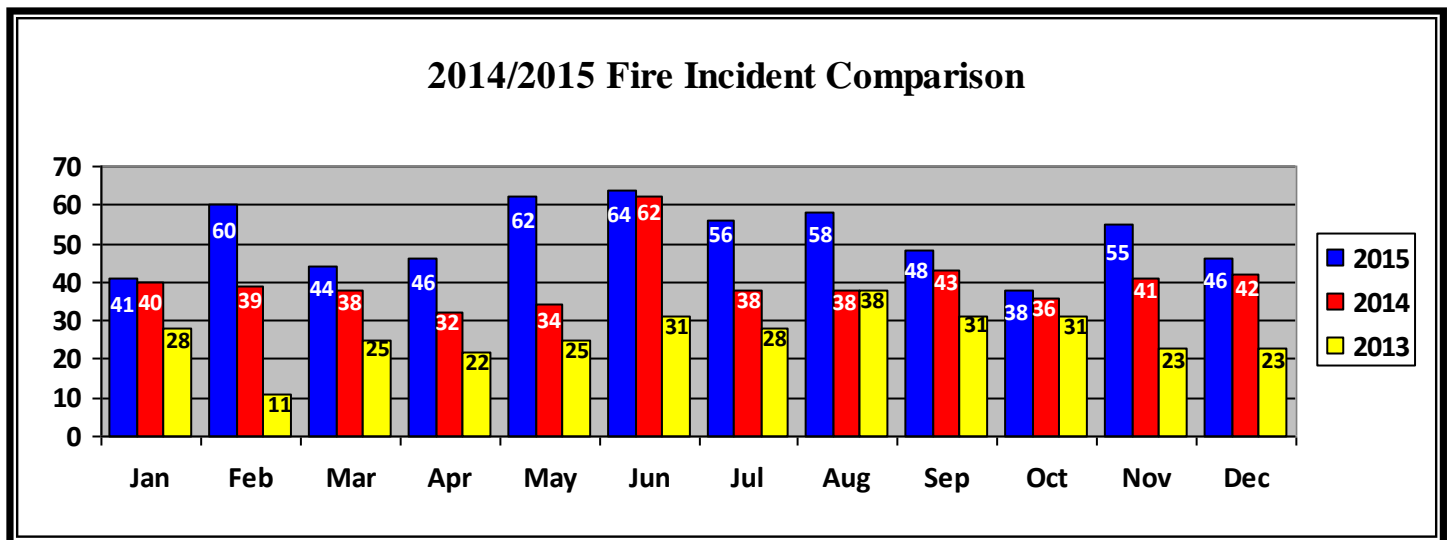


Fire Statistics

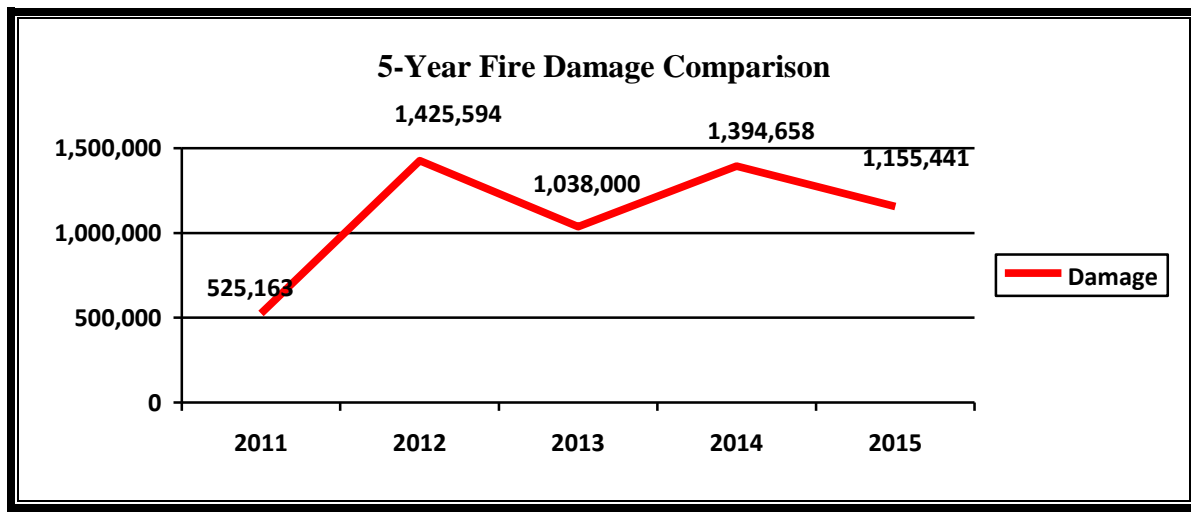
MAJOR INCIDENT FIRE RESPONSE													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<i>Number of Calls</i>	41	60	44	46	62	64	56	58	48	38	55	46	618
<i>Property Damage</i>	\$207,681	\$430,581	\$6,650	\$23,000	\$370,550	\$3,200	\$176,000	\$21,200	\$17,100	\$75,550	\$26,000	\$3,510	\$1,155,441
<i>Man Hours Spent</i>	283:54	331:04	201:46	115:06	411:36	180:40	232:45	214:32	174:23	202:07	189:41	138:14	2,675:48



Public Safety personnel working a fire scene with multiple fire apparatus



Fire Statistics Continued



Public Safety personnel fighting structure fire
at a home on East Meeting Street

Traffic Analysis

5-YEAR SUMMARY – TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<i>Accidents Reported</i>	1,002	1,080	1,142	1,027	1,203
<i>Number Injured</i>	261	263	346	252	293
<i>Fatalities</i>	1	3	0	2	2
<i>Acc. Arrests/Citations</i>	503	533	595	655	933
<i>Property Damage</i>	\$2,821,363	\$2,737,624	\$3,136,890	\$2,932,099	\$3,528,638

5-YEAR SUMMARY – DWI ARRESTS, CITATIONS					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<i>DWI Arrests</i>	265	299	283	249	229
<i>Traffic Citations</i>	4,358	4,384	3,342	4,677	4,836



Public Safety patrol vehicles purchased with grant funds for traffic enforcement

Traffic Analysis continued

Governors Highway Safety Program grant in 2014 funded a 2-person Traffic Unit, below is analysis of their activity:

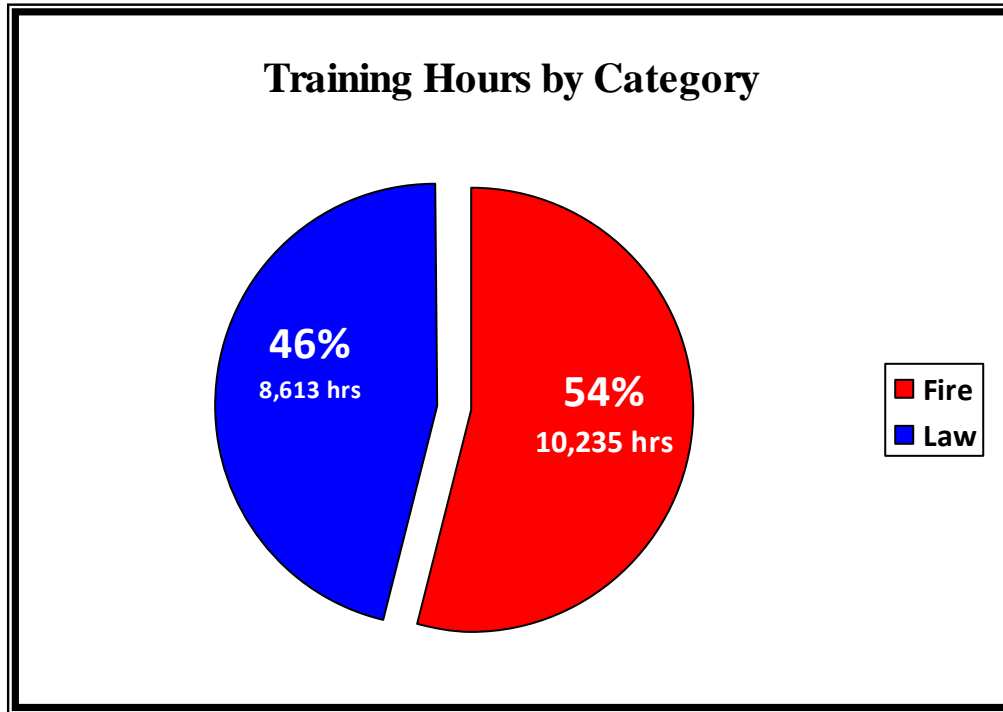
Traffic Unit Data 2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
DWI	7	4	7	6	6	10	9	2	1	3	3	7	65
Seat Belt	7	16	7	13	20	16	17	6	4	14	5	7	132
Child Restraint	2	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	38	55
Speed	36	29	21	34	23	38	27	17	25	42	33	6	331
DWLR	17	15	12	15	19	14	12	2	5	9	3	6	129
NOL	17	14	18	14	22	29	37	5	6	18	1	8	189
Motorcycle Permit	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Helmet Violations	0	0	1	4	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	15
Other Violations	76	43	37	46	57	66	71	11	18	65	28	42	560
Warning Citations	26	17	16	20	15	32	18	3	3	22	12	13	197
Total Traffic Offenses	188	141	120	155	168	208	196	47	62	174	86	124	1669
Total Drug Charges	8	2	3	11	15	13	10	1	2	2	0	2	69
Total Criminal Charges	12	9	1	4	9	3	5	3	6	2	2	3	59
Total Charges	208	152	124	170	192	224	211	51	70	178	88	127	1795
DWI Checking Stations	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	1	9
Seat Belt Initiatives	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	0	2	8	2	26
License Checks	4	3	4	7	9	4	10	1	1	2	0	0	45
# of Traffic Stops	168	151	159	152	198	221	193	34	58	128	63	95	1620
Fugitives Arrested	8	5	3	3	7	9	4	3	3	2	2	1	50
Injury Crashes	1	3	2	2	2	8	5	1	2	3	0	2	31
PD Crashes	15	18	21	27	17	23	25	6	11	22	17	20	222
Total Crashes	16	21	23	29	19	31	30	7	13	25	17	22	253
Public Info Pres.	2	1	0	3	0	6	3	1	6	1	1	6	30
Public Info Displays	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	3	5	5	2	2	25
# of Public Reached	56	30	50	95	310	654	362	280	2650	1300	104	325	6216
Enforcement	262	157	166	197.5	150	231.5	213.5	62	119.5	184	105.5	192	2040.5
Training	6	34	158	56.5	52	12	69	126	91	21	68.5	4	698
Court	26	18.5	20	19.5	20	15	25	9	0	10	18	0	181
Crashes	26	30.5	24	35	22	40	29	8.5	21	18	15	16.5	285.5
Public Info	4	4	2	9	4	20	15	13.5	62	32	13.5	37	216
Other	30.5	5	0	25	35	0	10	8	5	52	4.5	8	183
Total Hours	354.5	249	370	342.5	283	318.5	361.5	227	298.5	317	225	257.5	3604



*Traffic Unit Officers
Jeff Gillstrap (left)
and Nick Edwards*

Training

Public Safety provides police and fire services for the city and as such we are required to maintain training standards for both disciplines. Below is a summary:

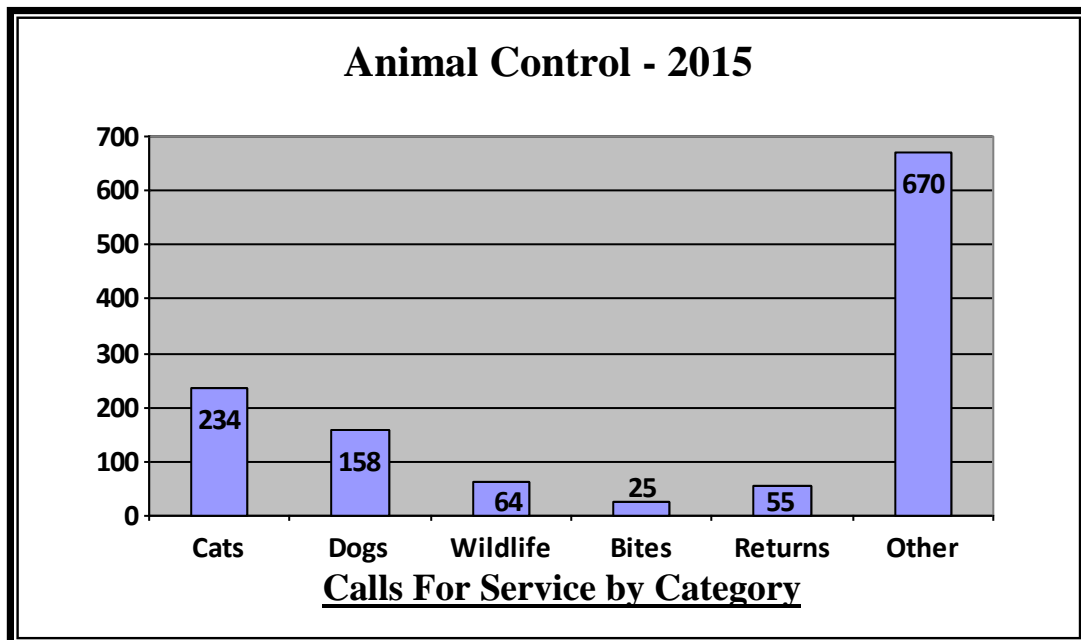


- 🛡 Total police-related training for 2015 was 8,613 hours, resulting in each sworn officer (66) averaging 130 hours of training
- 🛡 Total fire-related training was 10,235 hours, resulting in each firefighter (90) averaging 114 hours of training for the year
- 🛡 Four personnel attended the WPCC Fire Academy at 464 hours each

Parking Enf. & Animal Control

Parking Enforcement		
	2014	2015
Tickets	460	740
Revenues	\$12,417	\$8,664
<u>Parking Permits</u>	\$1,080	\$1,440
Queen Street Lot	\$3,744	\$3,744
Green Street Lot	\$25	\$75
Residential		

Animal Control		
	2014	2015
<i>Calls for Service</i>	678	1,206
<i>Citations Issued</i>	66	119



Section/Division Highlights

Breast Cancer Awareness

Public Safety showed its support in the fight against breast cancer by designing and selling t-shirts during October's *Breast Cancer Awareness Month* and donating funds to research.



Recognition

Due to the efforts of the Dept. of Public Safety, the City of Morganton received the following:

- 🛡️ “Top 50 Safest Cities in North Carolina - 2015”: Morganton was recognized as the 37th safest city in state, up from 41st in 2014, according to FBI Crime Reporting data, due a 10% drop in violent crime.
- 🛡️ “Top 20 Safest Cities for Drivers – 2015”: *Consumer Affairs* magazine analyzed data from the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* and awarded Morganton the No. 13 ranking in North Carolina for ‘distracted driving accidents’ and No. 18 overall for “accidents caused by speeding”.

Drug Enforcement:

Public Safety is a member of the *Burke County Narcotics Task Force*, whose mission is drug interdiction and enforcement, below is a summary of activity for 2015 (2014 in parentheses):

- 🛡️ Initiated 327 cases (325), resulting in 169 arrests (111) and 98 indictments (139)
- 🛡️ Seizures include \$60,468 in cash (\$66,031), 22 weapons (23), 1 vehicle and over \$325,000 in narcotics
- 🛡️ The following are amounts for the major drug categories that were seized:
 - Cocaine: 167 grams
 - Crack: 230 dosage units
 - Marijuana: 3,352 grams
 - Methamphetamines: 374 grams
 - Oxycodone: 697 dosage units
 - Hydrocodone: 40 dosage units

Canine:

Our canine program is comprised of three handlers each assigned to a canine, PSO William Miller assigned to canine Kimo, PSO Stacey Huffman assigned canine Shrek, and PSO Aaron Palmer assigned to canine Fred. Canine Units are responsible for apprehension of fleeing suspects, article searches, i.e., looking for items suspects may have thrown down during a chase, tracking suspects or missing persons, building searches, and narcotics detection. Furthermore, they conduct demonstrations in the community and assist surrounding agencies.



- ♥ All canines recertified through the *North American Police Working Dog Association*
- ♥ Each canine accrued nearly 200 training hours for the year
- ♥ Drug Seizures:
 - Marijuana.....1.67 kilos
 - Methamphetamines... 292 grams
 - Cocaine/Crack.....241 grams
 - Money.....\$34,278

Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT)

Public Safety's SWAT team is comprised of 10 members and is responsible for; hostage situations, barricaded persons, sniper incidents, aggravated suicide attempts, high-risk building searches & arrest warrant service, crowd control and other potential life threatening incidents which exceed the routine response of on-duty Public Safety personnel. Criteria for team selection is: one year law enforcement experience, demonstrated ability to conduct oneself calmly & effectively under stressful situations, minimum qualifying score of 94% with each assigned duty weapon, no disciplinary action in the past 2 years, display initiative, job interest and obligation to the public safety profession, officer's compatibility with current members of the SWAT team, good physical condition and pass the rigorous physical fitness test, and final approval is from the Chief. Below are highlights from 2015:



- 13 call-outs to include stand-offs, executing high-risk warrants as well as assisting the Burke County Narcotics Task Force and Burke County Sheriff's Office
- Newest members; Justin Walker, Eric Connor, Corey Holland and James Hunt
- Team member Kyle Goforth completed CTS certification (gas and aerial distraction devices)
- Sgt Nick Edwards was recognized for 5 years of service

Special Operations Division:

- ☛ “Coffee With A Cop” is a national event that focuses on connecting community members with Law Enforcement. In 2015, Public Safety hosted this event at several businesses and organizations and has been well received by members in the community. The department has hosted, and received requests, from the following:

Carolina’s Healthcare System-BlueRidge, The Grind coffee shop, My Local Bakery, Grace Ridge Retirement Community, Denny’s, Allison’s restaurant, Pat’s Snack Bar and more



- ☛ In 2015, our D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program was presented over a 3-month period to 5th graders at the following elementary schools; Mountain Crest, Forest Hill, New Dimensions and Morganton Day School. The new D.A.R.E. curriculum is titled “Keepin’ It Real” and uses national research-based educational techniques to teach youth better decision making skills to help them avoid negative influences in life

- ☛ Public Safety’s Annual “Blue Elves” toy drive reached over 280 children in the city of Morganton and was the first joint effort between the United Way, The Marine Corps League and Morganton Housing Authority. By forming these new partnerships Public Safety was able to facilitate a larger event which included toys, lunch and department-led activities for the youth



- ☛ “Operation Safe Haven” provided a week-long summer camp for rising 6th graders in city schools as a reward for those who successfully completed the D.A.R.E. program and included the following activities:

- Team-building activities with local fire and law enforcement
- Fun Depot in Asheville; games, go-carts and laser tag
- Swimming and canoeing at Lake James State Park
- Carowinds and Boomerang Bay Water Park
- Community service projects, i.e., a Treasure Hunt in downtown Morganton that challenged teams to collect the most amount of trash by weight
- Meals & transportation the entire week
- Awards Banquet with a meal for the children’s families

